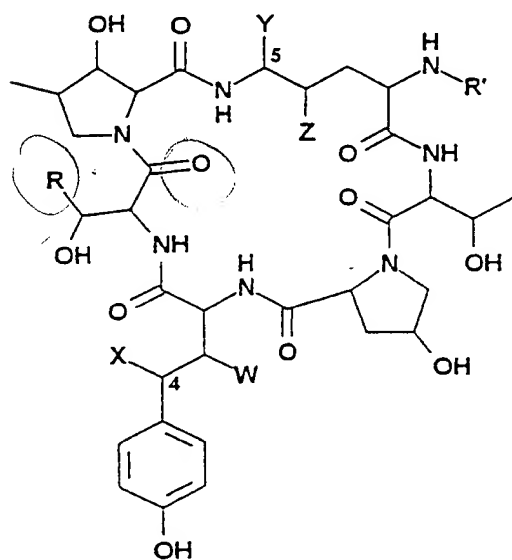


A process for the conversion of echinocandin class of peptides to their C4-homotyrosine monodeoxy analogues

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This invention relates to a process for the conversion of echinocandin class of peptides of the formula I



(I)

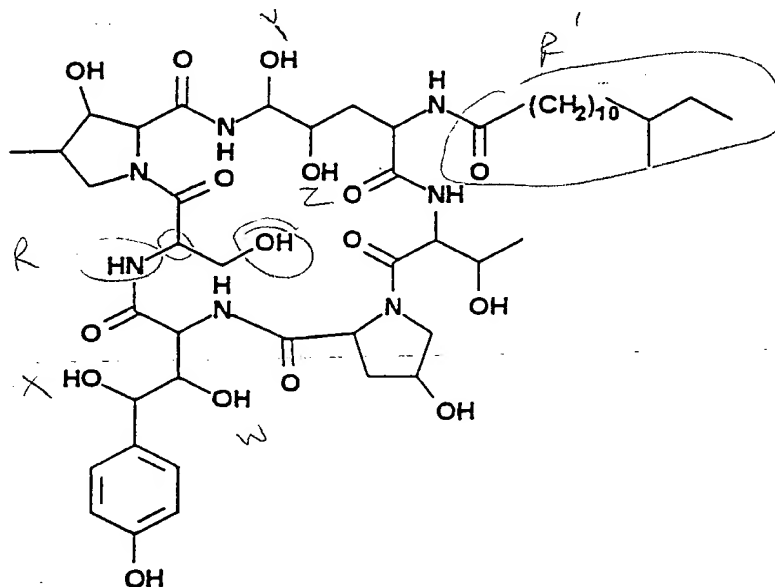
10 wherein W, X, Y, Z, R and R' are as defined herein below :

		<u>W</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R'</u>
1.	Echinocandin B	OH	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>3</sub>	Linoleoyl
2.	Pneumocandin A <sub>0</sub>	OH	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	10,12-Dimethyl-myristoyl
3.	Pneumocandin A <sub>1</sub>	H	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
4.	Pneumocandin A <sub>2</sub>	OH	OH	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
5.	Pneumocandin B <sub>0</sub>	OH	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
6.	Pneumocandin B <sub>2</sub>	OH	OH	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
7.	Pneumocandin C <sub>0</sub>	OH	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
8.	Mulundocandin	OH	OH	OH	OH	H	12-Methyl-tetradecanoyl

to their C4-homotyrosine monodeoxy analogues of the formula I, wherein W, X, Y, Z, R and R' are as defined herein below:

		<u>W</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R'</u>
5	1. Deoxyechinocandin B (Echinocandin C)	OH	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>3</sub>	Linoleoyl
	2. Deoxypneumocandin A <sub>0</sub> Dimethyl-	OH	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	10,12-
10							myristoyl
	3. Deoxypneumocandin A <sub>1</sub>	H	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
	4. Deoxypneumocandin A <sub>2</sub>	OH	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
	5. Deoxypneumocandin B <sub>0</sub>	OH	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
	6. Deoxypneumocandin B <sub>2</sub>	OH	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
15	7. Deoxypneumocandin C <sub>0</sub>	OH	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CONH <sub>2</sub>	"
	8. Deoxymulundocandin	OH	H	OH	OH	H	12-Methyl tetra- decanoyl,

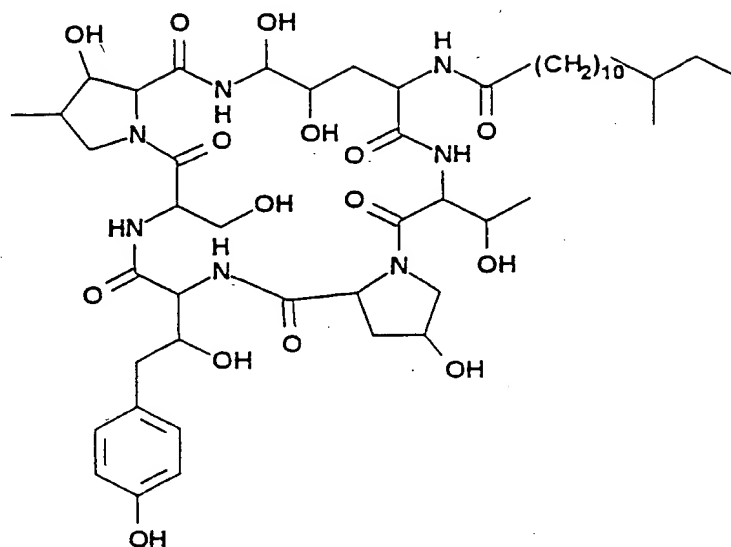
particularly to a process for the conversion of mulundocandin (compound of the formula II)



(II)

to deoxymulundocandin (compound of the formula III)

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(III)

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1,3- $\beta$ -glucan synthesis inhibitors are effective antifungal agents against *Candida albicans* and also *Pneumocystis carini*, an opportunistic organism responsible for an often fatal pneumonitis among HIV patients and other immunocompromised hosts. Of all the structural classes of 1,3- $\beta$ -glucan synthesis inhibitors, only the echinocandins received considerable attention [Ref : J. Med. Chem. 35, 198-200 (1992)]. Echinocandin class of peptides are cyclic hexapeptides having a lipophilic side chain.

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Several methods for the conversion of echinocandins to the corresponding deoxy analogues under acidic conditions have been reported [Ref : Tetrahedron Letts., 33, 4529-4532 (1992); US Patent Appl. No. 222157 dated April 4, 1994]. The above methods involve selective reduction of C4-htyr (homotyrosine) hydroxyl group of echinocandins to their monodeoxy analogues with prior protection / deprotection of the equally facile C5-Orn (ornithine) hydroxyl group.



wherein W, X, Y, Z, R and R' are as defined herein below :

		<u>W</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R'</u>
5	1. Echinocandin B	OH	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>3</sub>	Linoleoyl
	2. Pneumocandin A <sub>0</sub>	OH	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	10,12-Dimethyl- myristoyl
	3. Pneumocandin A <sub>1</sub>	H	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
	4. Pneumocandin A <sub>2</sub>	OH	OH	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
10	5. Pneumocandin B <sub>0</sub>	OH	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
	6. Pneumocandin B <sub>2</sub>	OH	OH	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
	7. Pneumocandin C <sub>0</sub>	OH	OH	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
	8. Mulundocandin	OH	OH	OH	OH	H	12-Methyl- tetradecanoyl

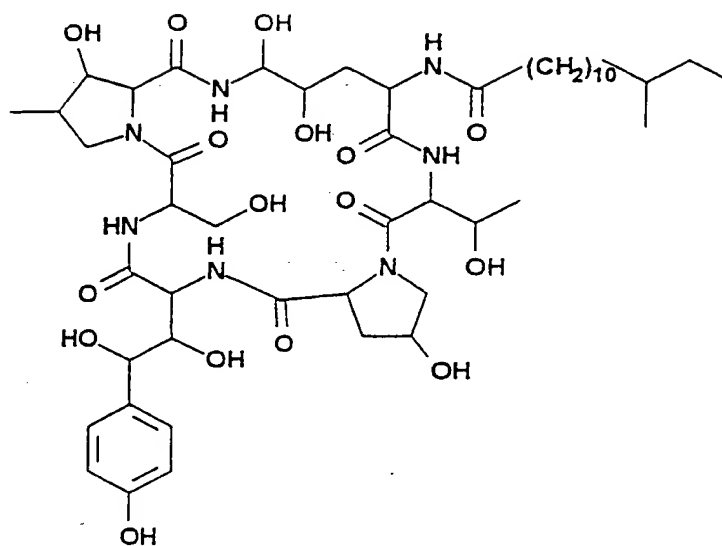
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to their C4-homotyrosine monodeoxy analogues of the formula I, wherein W, X, Y, Z, R and R' are as defined herein below:

		<u>W</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R'</u>
20	1. Deoxyechinocandin B (Echinocandin C)	OH	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>3</sub>	Linoleoyl
	2. Deoxypneumocandin A <sub>0</sub>	OH	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	10,12-Dimethyl- myristoyl
	3. Deoxypneumocandin A <sub>1</sub>	H	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
25	4. Deoxypneumocandin A <sub>2</sub>	OH	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
	5. Deoxypneumocandin B <sub>0</sub>	OH	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
	6. Deoxypneumocandin B <sub>2</sub>	OH	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
	7. Deoxypneumocandin C <sub>0</sub>	OH	H	OH	OH	CH <sub>2</sub> -CO-NH <sub>2</sub>	"
	8. Deoxymulundocandin	OH	H	OH	OH	H	12-Methyl tetra- decanoyl

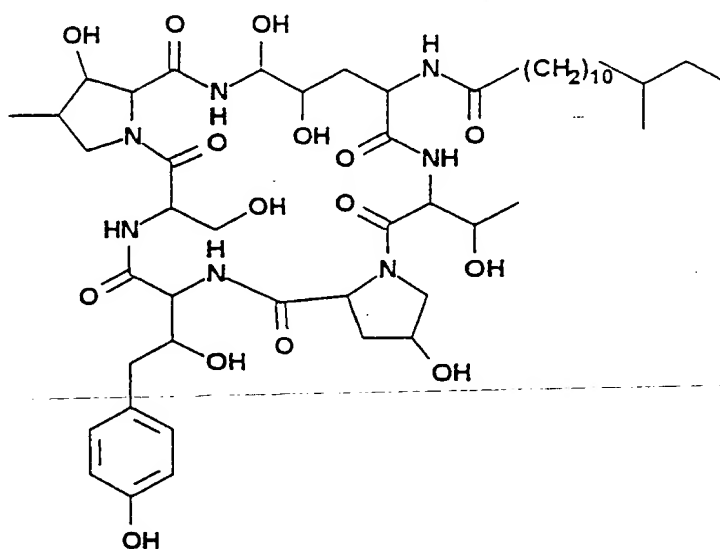
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particularly to a process for the conversion of mulundocandin (compound of the formula II



(II)

to deoxymulundocandin (compound of the formula III)



which consists of a single step selective reduction of C4-htyr (homotyrosine) hydroxyl group of echinocandins to their monodeoxy analogues particularly under neutral conditions without prior protection / deprotection of the equally facile C5-Orn (ornithine) hydroxyl group and purification of the monodeoxy compound from the crude reaction mixture.

The conversion of echinocandins to their monodeoxy analogues by selective reduction at C4-htyr may be effected by hydrogenolysis with Raney nickel in solvents such as methanol, ethanol, or dioxane at pH 3-9. Preferably, the selective reduction is carried out by hydrogenolysis with Raney nickel in ethanol at pH 7 and room temperature in the ratio of 6.8 ml Raney nickel per millimole of mulundocandin.

The monodeoxy compounds of the invention may, for example, be purified from the crude reaction mixture as follows :

15 ~~By fractionation using normal phase chromatography (using alumina or silica gel as stationary phase and eluents such as petroleum ether, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, chloroform, methanol or combinations thereof), reverse phase chromatography (using reverse phase silica gel like dimethyloctadecylsilylsilica gel, also called RP-18 or dimethyloctylsilylsilica gel also called RP-8 as stationary phase and eluents such as water, buffers such as phosphate, acetate, citrate (pH 2-8) and organic solvents such as methanol, acetonitrile, acetone, tetrahydrofuran or combination of the solvents), gel permeation chromatography - using resins such as "Sephadex LH-20" (Pharmacia Chemical Industries, Sweden), TSKgel Toyopearl~~  
20 ~~HW (TosoHaas, Tosoh Corporation, Japan) in solvents such as methanol, chloroform or ethyl acetate or their combination or Sephadex G-10 and G-25 in water, or by counter-current chromatography using a biphasic eluent system made up of two or more solvents such as water, methanol, ethanol, iso-propanol, n-propanol, tetrahydrofuran, acetone, acetonitrile, methylene chloride, chloroform,~~  
25 ~~ethylacetate, petroleum ether, benzene and toluene. These techniques may be used repeatedly or a combination of the different techniques may be used. Counter-~~  
30

~~current chromatography (liquid-liquid chromatography) using a biphasic eluent system on ITO coil is preferred for purification of the compounds of the invention.~~

5 The following experimental example is illustrative of the present invention but not limitative of the scope thereof.

#### Example 1

Mulundocandin (220 mg, 2.2 mM) in ethanol (8 ml)) was stirred with 15 ml of W-2 Raney nickel (pH 7) in ethanol (30 ml) for 3 hours at room temperature. After  
10 standing for 15 minutes the supernatant solution was decanted and Raney nickel washed with 3 x 30 ml. ethanol with stirring and filtered. Combined ethanolic solutions were concentrated by distillation under a reduced pressure of 60-70 mm/Hg at 35° C to obtain 160 mg (75%) of crude deoxymulundocandin as a slightly green solid.

15 The crude product was purified by liquid-liquid chromatography on ITO coil using upper layer of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> : MeOH : *n*-PrOH : H<sub>2</sub>O as the stationary phase and the lower layer as the mobile phase in an ascending mode. The coils (15 + 25 + 215 ml ) were connected in series and a flow rate of 0.6 ml/min. at a piston stroke of 60 and  
20 pressure 0.5 bars was maintained. The purification of deoxymulundocandin was monitored both by bioactivity against *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger* and by analytical High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) [column : (10 x 0.4 cm + 3 x 0.4 cm) ODS-Hypersil, 10μ; mobile phase: 50:50 CH<sub>3</sub>CN : H<sub>2</sub>O ; flow rate : 1 ml/min; Wavelength : 220 nm.) The fractions (4.5 ml each) containing  
25 deoxymulundocandin were combined, concentrated by distillation under a reduced pressure of 60-70 mm/Hg at 35°C and lyophilized to yield pure deoxymulundocandin [65 mg (30% yield)]. Also recovered during the above purification of deoxymulundocandin was unreacted mulundocandin in 10% yield.

30 The semi-synthetic deoxymulundocandin was identical in all respects to the naturally isolated compound and the physico-chemical data is given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

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	Appearance :	White powder
	Melting point:	170-172°C
	$[\alpha]_D$ :	- 36.6° (c 0.25, MeOH)
	HPLC RT :	4.42 min
10	FAB-MS (Fast Atom: Bombardment mass)	1014.7 (M + Na) <sup>+</sup>
	<sup>1</sup> H NMR (300 MHz, : CD <sub>3</sub> OD)	<u>Figure 1</u> of the accompanying drawings
15	<sup>13</sup> C NMR (75 MHz, : CD <sub>3</sub> OD)	<u>Figure 2</u> of the accompanying drawings